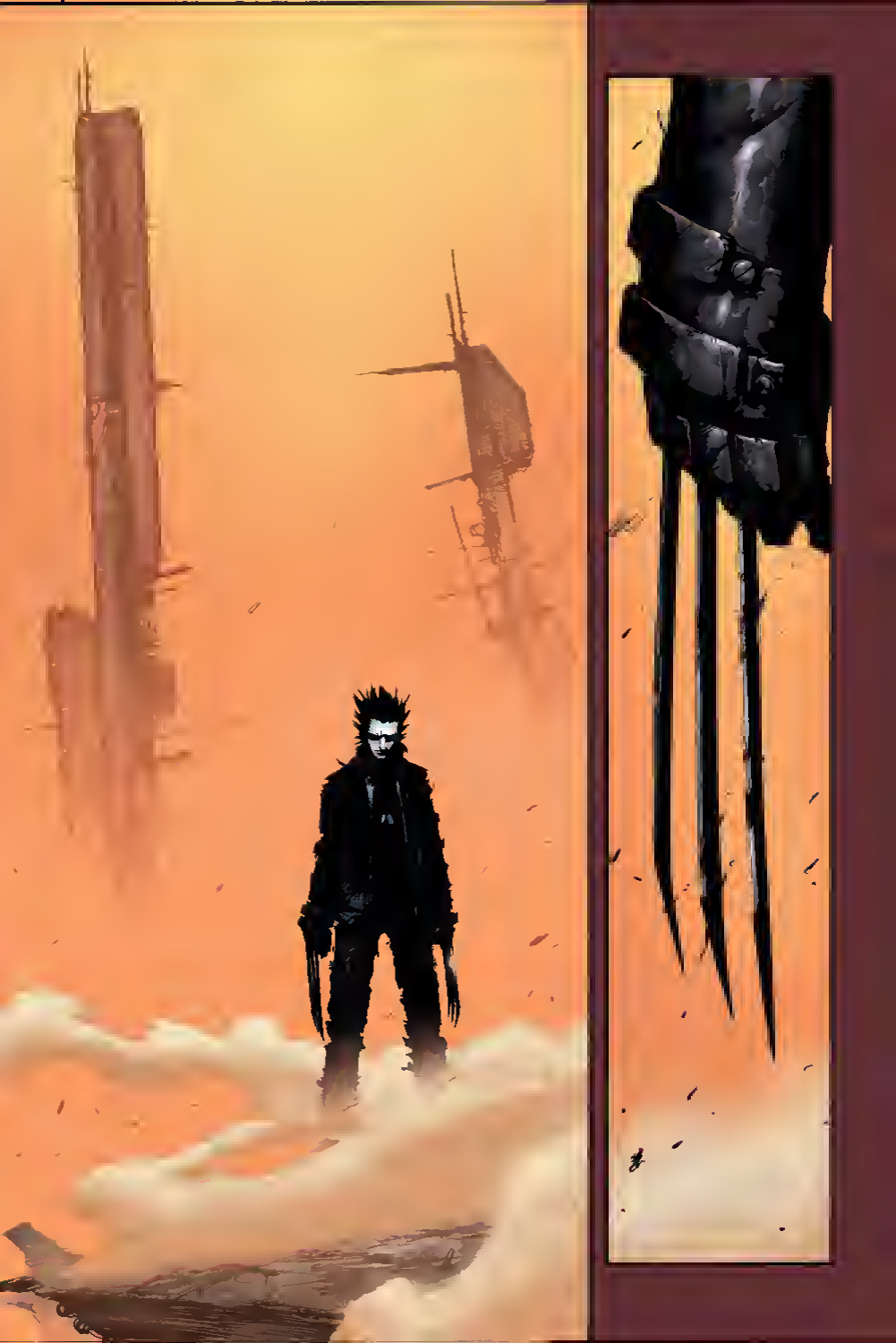
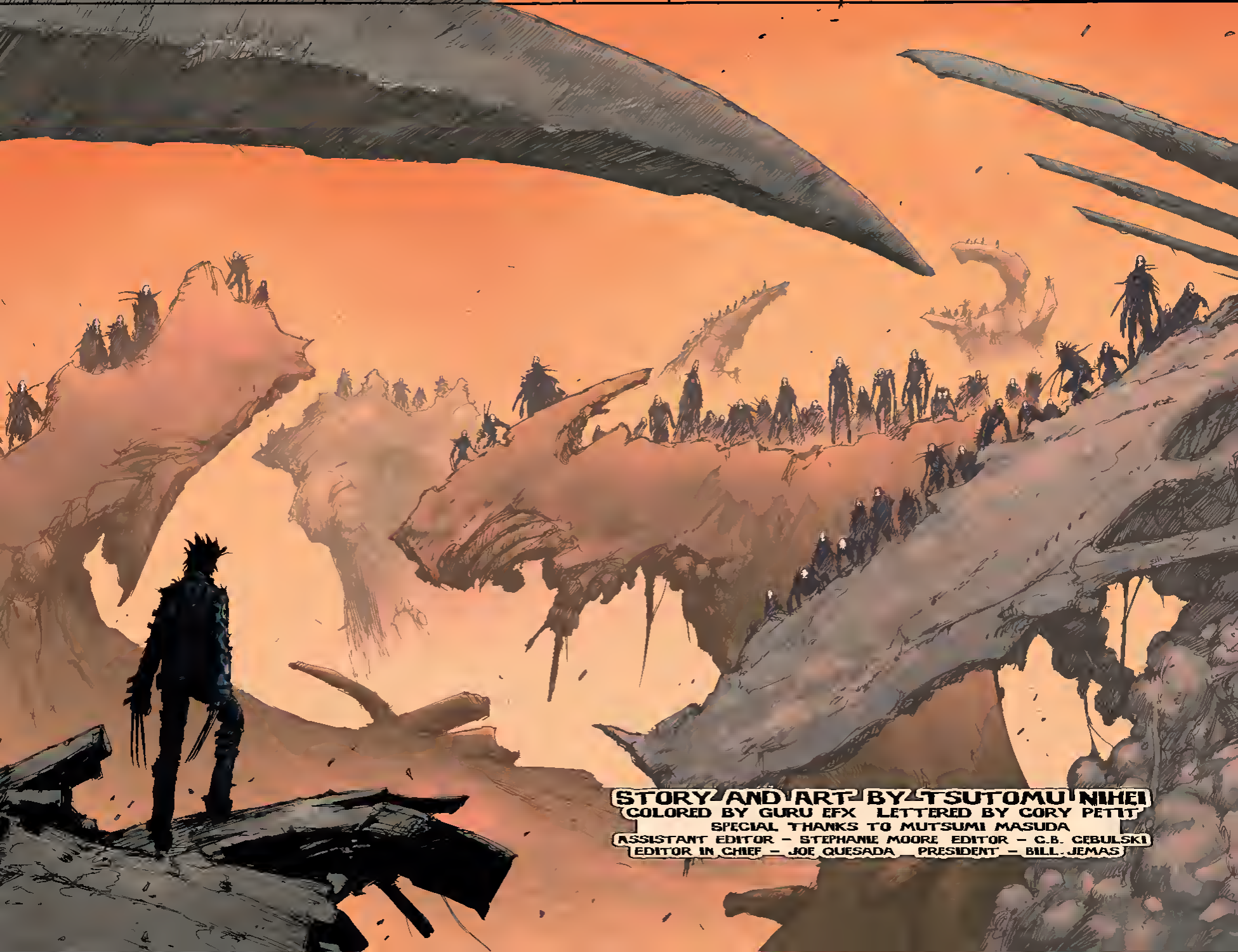
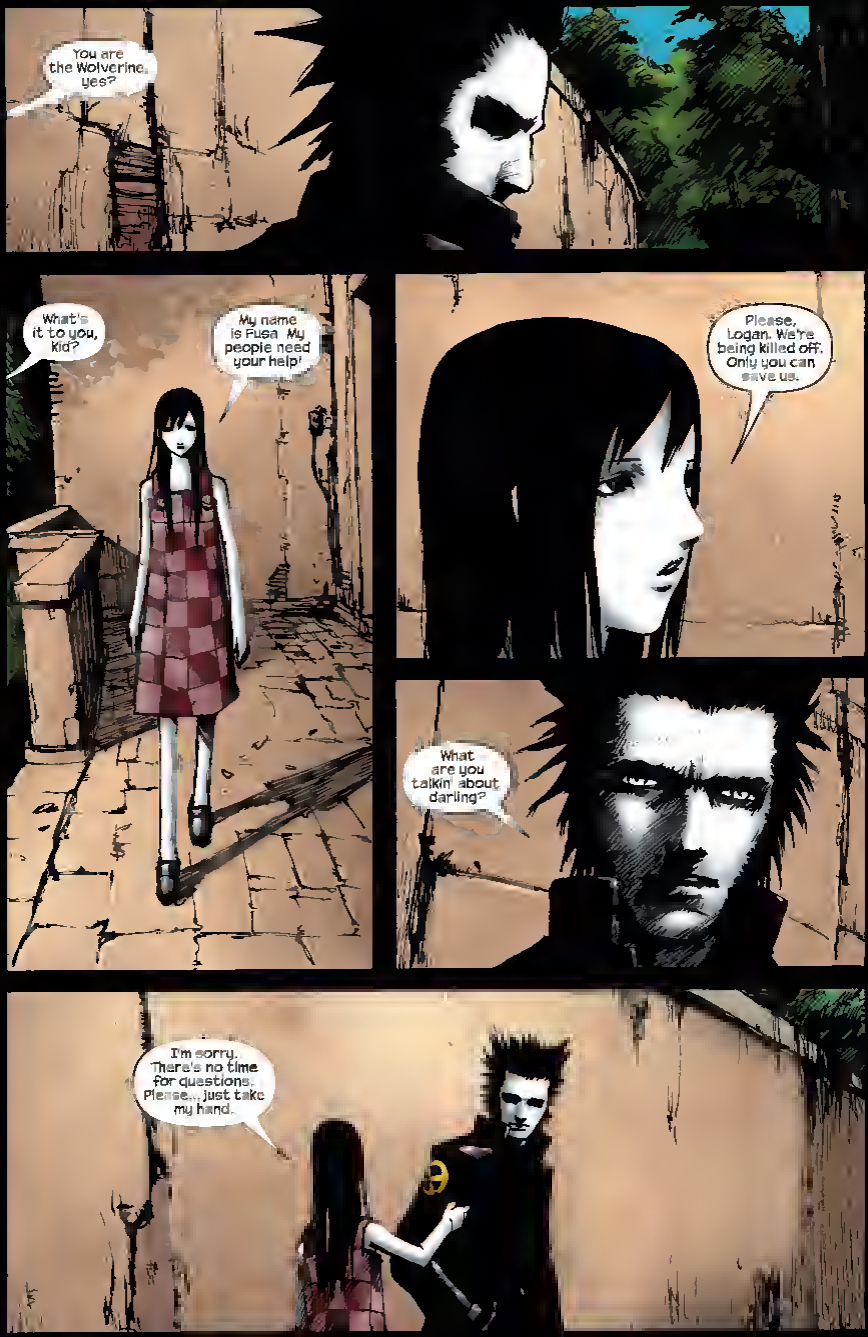
MARVEL
PG+ 1
WOLVERINE:
SNIKT!
TSUTOMU NIHEI




STORY AND ART BY TSUTOMU NIHEI
COLORED BY GURU EFX LETTERED BY CORY PETIT
SPECIAL THANKS TO MUTSUMI MASUDA
ASSISTANT EDITOR – STEPHANIE MOORE EDITOR – C.B. CEBULSKI
EDITOR IN CHIEF – JOE QUESADA PRESIDENT – BILL JEMAS

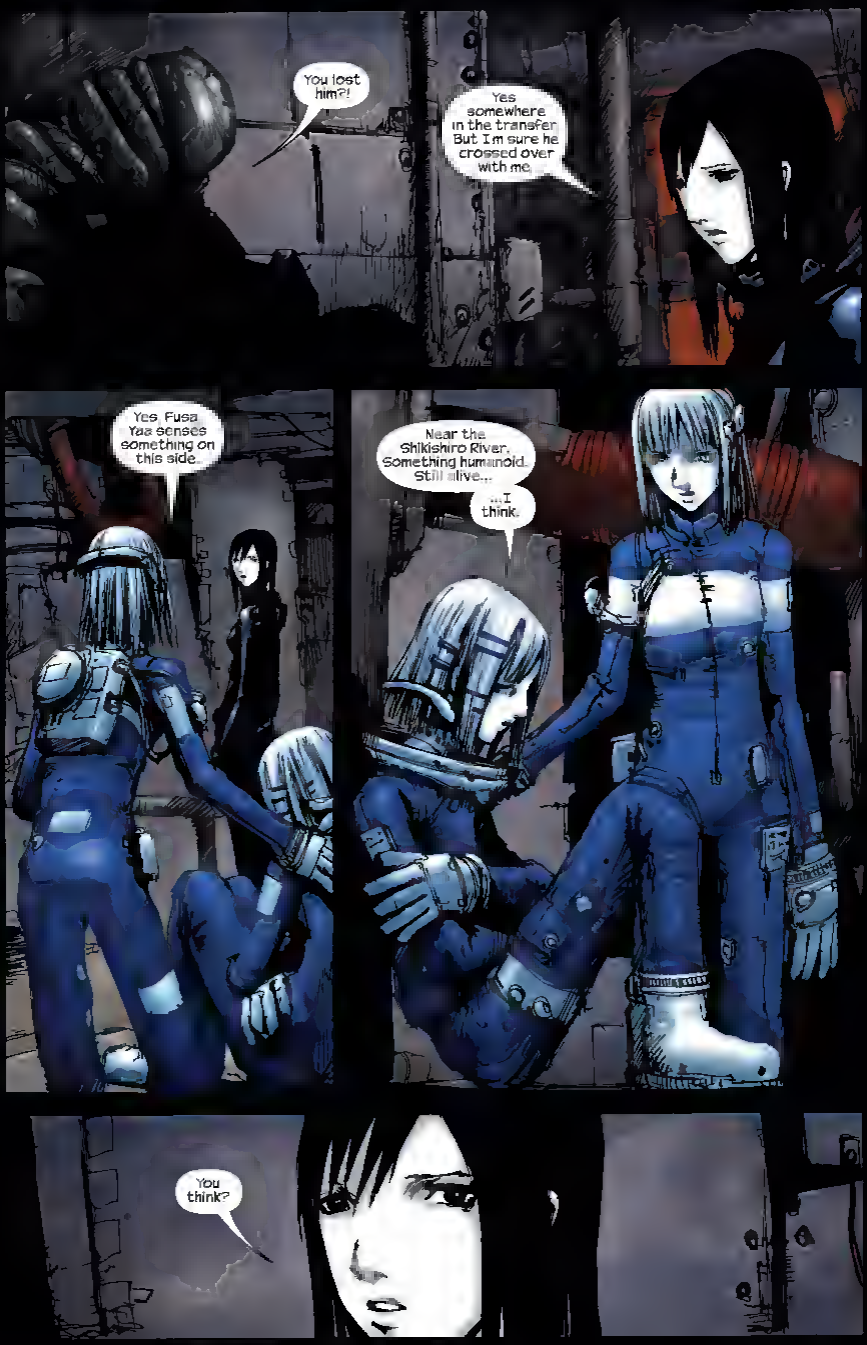
NEW YORK CITY. EARLIER...
Logan!


You are the Wolverine, yes?
What's it to you, kid?
My name is Fusa. My people need your help!
Please, Logan. We're being killed off. Only you can save us.
What are you talkin' about darling?
I'm sorry. There's no time for questions. Please... just take my hand.

CLICK
VWOOOSH
What the...?!?!

No! You mustn't let go during the transfer.
Transfer?
Logan!!

WWW
HSSH


You lost him?!
Yes somewhere in the transfer. But I'm sure he crossed over with me.
Yes. Fusa Yaa senses something on this side.
Near the Shikishiro River. Something humanoid. Still alive...
...I think.
You think?

THUMP
SSSHHHH

Wh
Where the hell am I?
TOK
TOK
TOK
SPOK
CLATTER
CLATTER
CLICK!

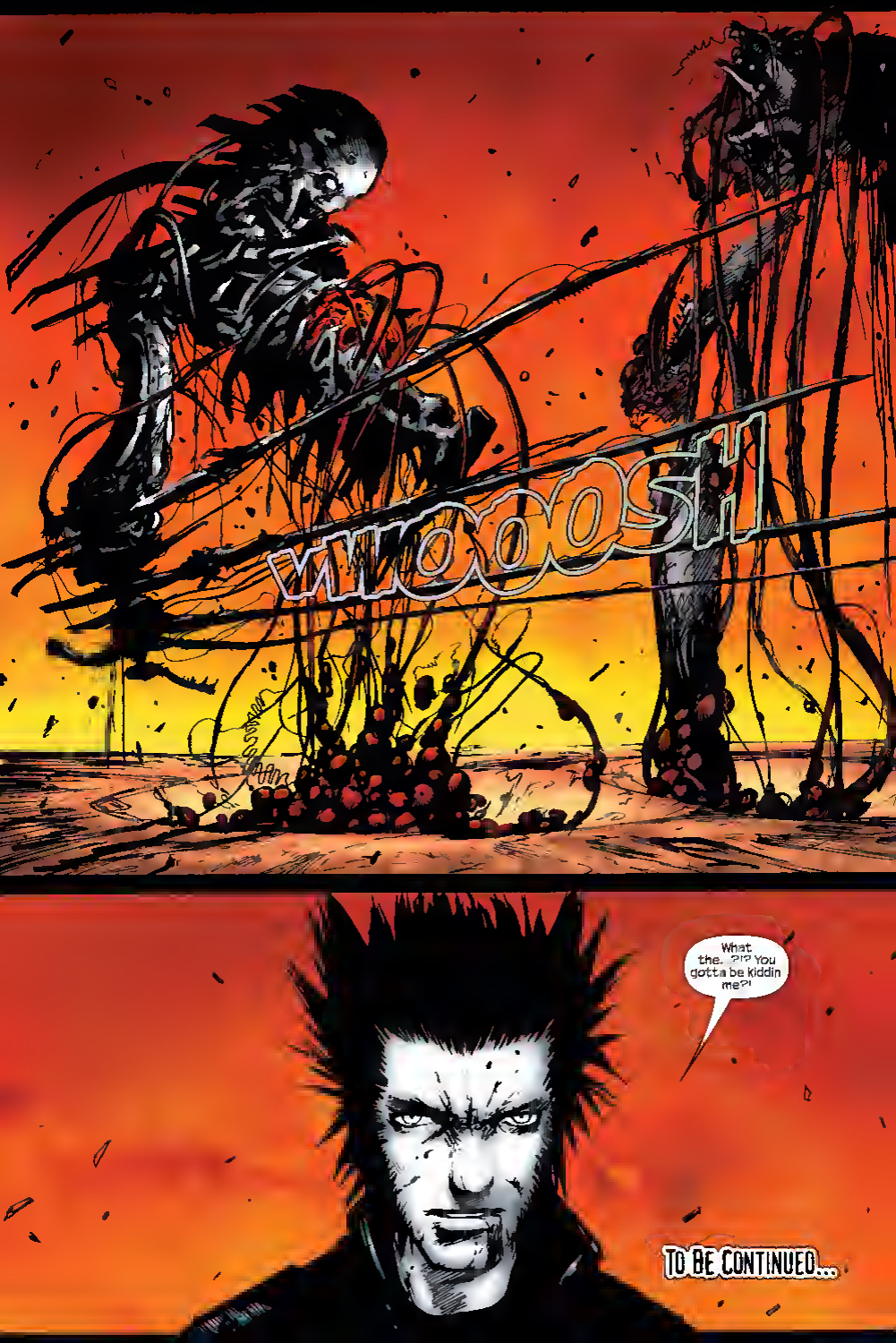
VWOOOSH!
SHARRRP
SNIKT!

KRAK!!
SHWISH
THUNK!

KRRSSH
WWSSHH
THUP
SWOOSH

RRAAASSH
ZZZSSSHH

THUNK!
SPWOOSH
SHWIP
SHWIP


WHOOOSH
What the...?!? You gotta be kiddin me?!
TO BE CONTINUED...

MARVEL
PG+ 2

WOLVERINE: SNIKT!

SHRAAK
SLASH
WHOOSH

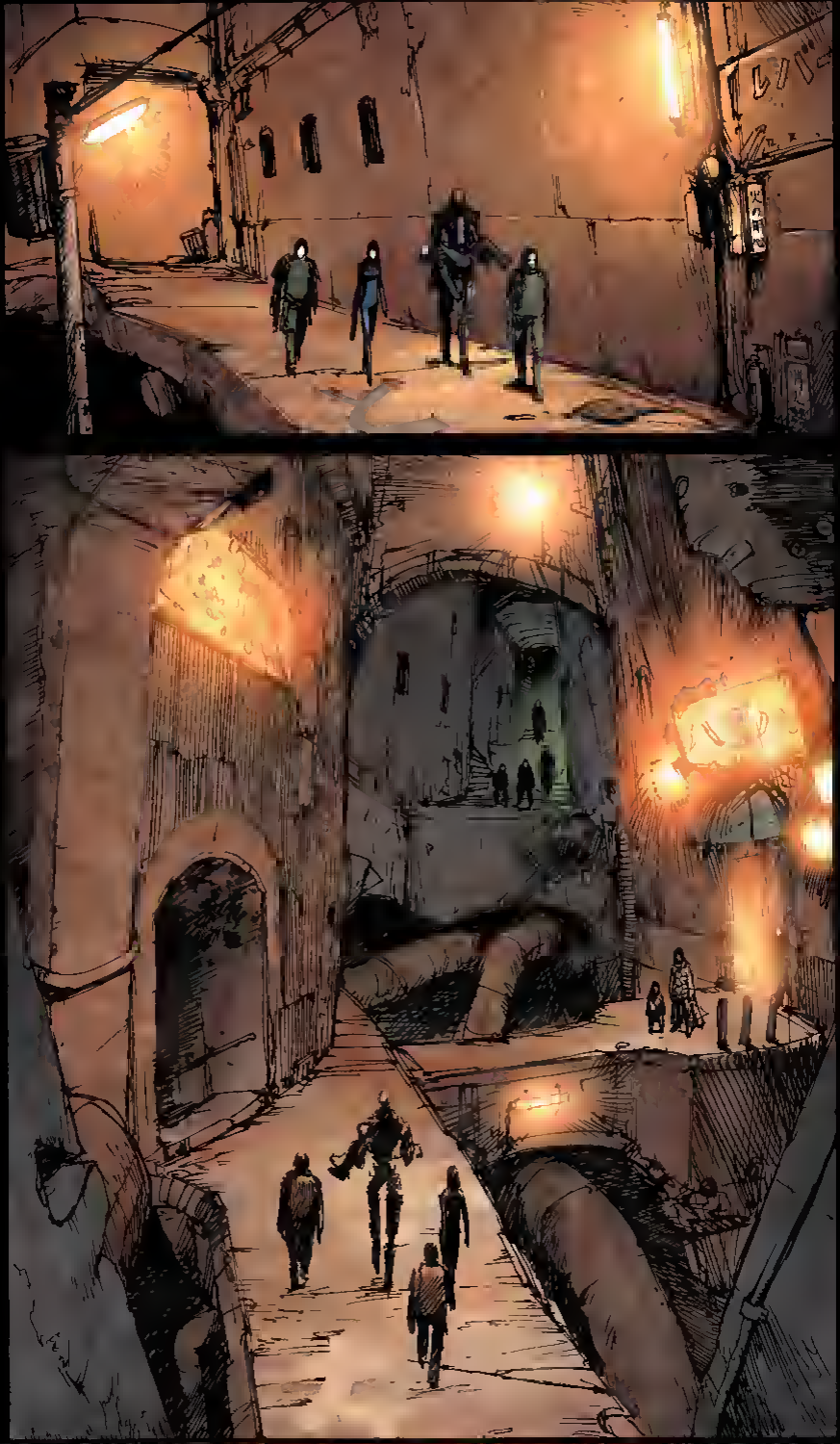
SSSHHH
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
SHUNK

WHOOSH
THUNK

That was a Mandate. You have to destroy its orb-core, otherwise they'll keep re-forming themselves over and over again.
FFFSSHHH
GGGRRR
SPSSSSHH

Logan! Are you all right?
THUK
WUMP
FHWOOOOSH

WHHRRR
B307
WWWHHRRR
WWWHHRRR



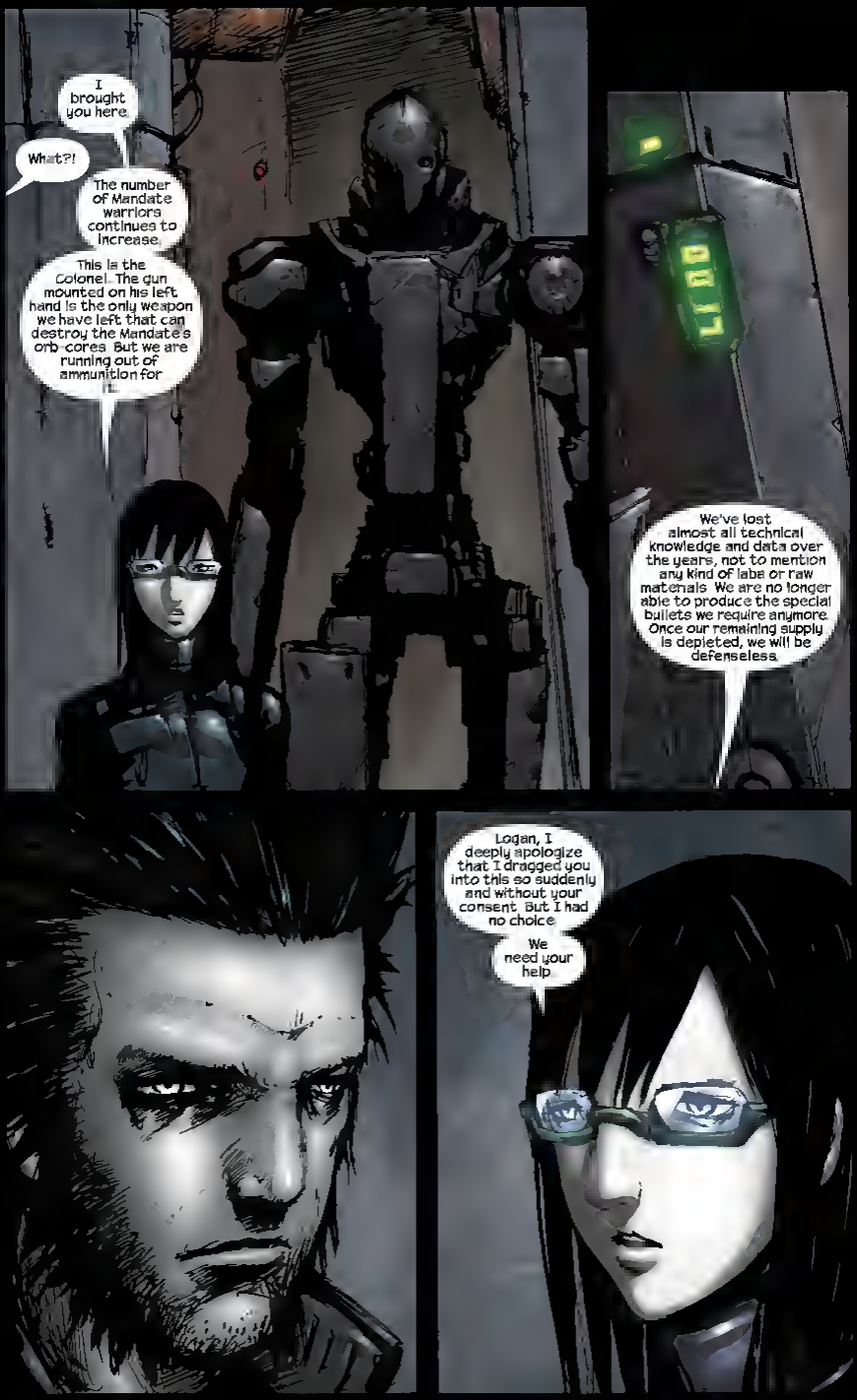
This is Logan... the Wolverine?
Yes. He was wounded in battle with a Mandate. It appears his rumored healing factor has repaired the wounds, but he is still unconscious. Possibly battle fatigue, combined with the teleportation stress, took its toll... even on his mutant body.
Where are you going, Takeo?
I'm going to see the Medic. I'm not feeling well after having been above ground.

Hey, you
Oh, it's you, Takeo. Is something wrong?
SPLOK
KRRSCH

FLIT
Pssst
SHHRSSSHH

So you're awake. Good.
My name's Fusa. This is the second time I'm introducing myself to you. Do you have any recollection of our first meeting?
No clue, sweetheart.
Who are you people? Where the hell am I?

You're still on Earth.
This ain't the Earth I was living on.
No. This is not the same Earth you remember.
This is the future.
Most of the planet's population are now dead. Everyone was wiped out when The Mandate attacked in 2047.
That was 11 years ago.
What are you talking about? How did I get here?


I brought you here.
What?!
The number of Mandate warriors continues to increase.
This is the Colonel. The gun mounted on his left hand is the only weapon we have left that can destroy the Mandate's orb-cores. But we are running out of ammunition for it.
We've lost almost all technical knowledge and data over the years, not to mention any kind of labs or raw materials. We are no longer able to produce the special bullets we require anymore. Once our remaining supply is depleted, we will be defenseless.
Logan, I deeply apologize that I dragged you into this so suddenly and without your consent. But I had no choice.
We need your help.

But why me? Why come back in time for my help when
Emergency! A Mandate has somehow entered this facility!
We think Takeo may have been infected with micro-nucleate Mandate parasites when he went to aid in finding the Wolverine.
BLAM
BLAM
Aim and shoot carefully so as to expose its orb-core. That will help give me a better shot at it.

BLAM

KWOOSH
You missed.
It's fled to the upper levels!
TOK
TOK
TOK
SKRASH

FORGET

CHOK

Now I need some straight answers or I'm really going to get mad.
TO BE CONTINUED...

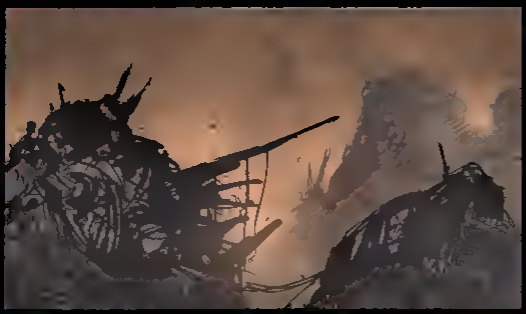
MARVEL
PG+ 3

WOLVERINE:

SNIKT!

Eleven years ago...

That's how Fusa's explanation started... Seems The Mandate are mutants! But not mutants like me or the X-Men. The Mandate is itself a mutant disease... literally! It started as a new species of bacteria in a lab somewhere. Like almost all experiments gone wrong, the scientists who originally created it had nothing but the best intentions when they began.

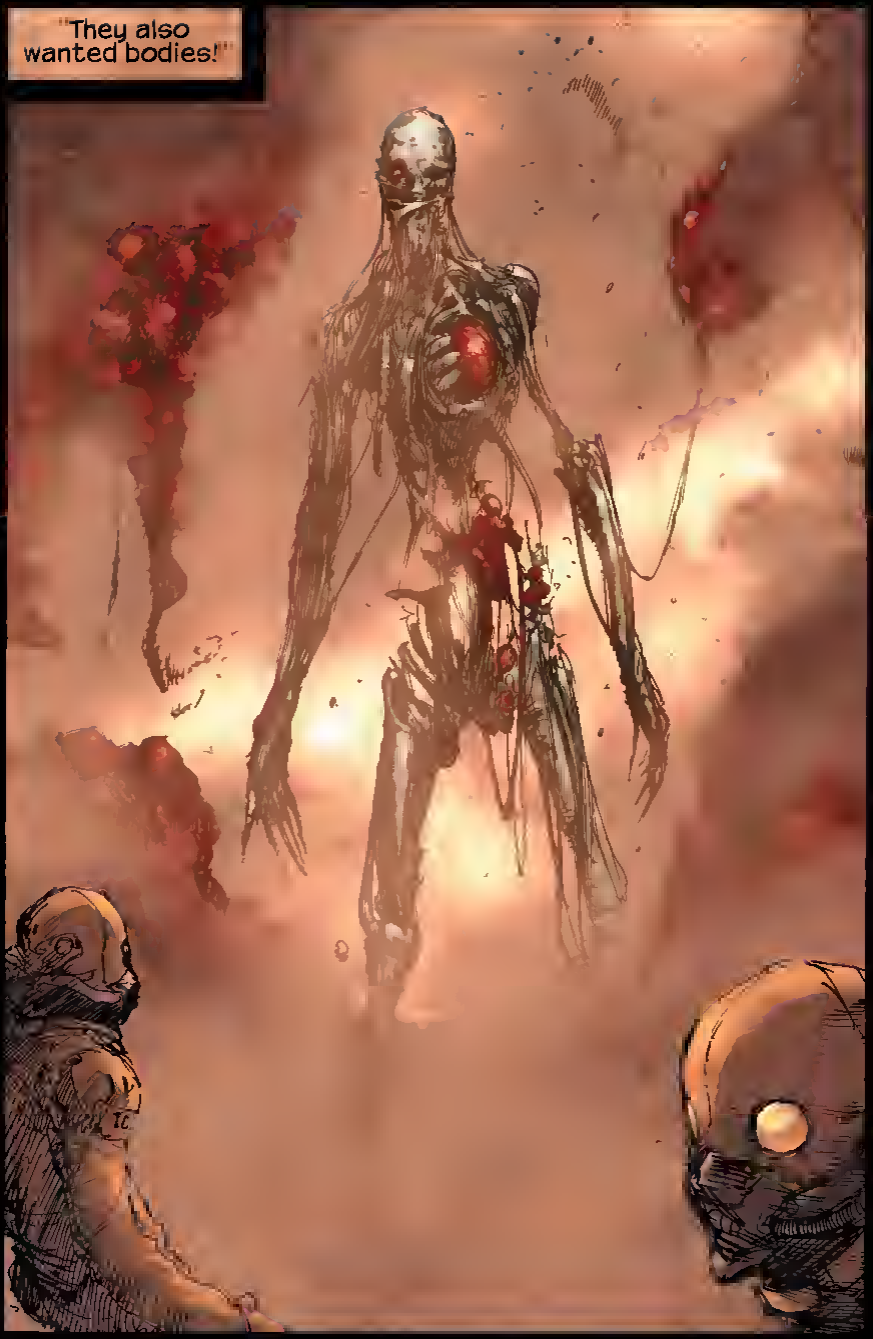


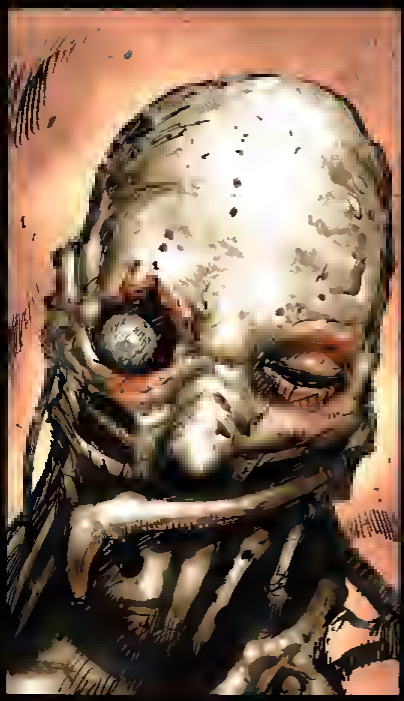
The original plan was to develop a microorganism that would naturally decompose the toxic materials poisoning the Earth. By creating a bacterium that could break down these toxins, the scientists hoped to create an environmentally safe and effective way to save the ever-deteriorating ecosystem.

To this end, researchers spent years studying strains of flesh-eating bacteria. By altering its genetic makeup, they hoped to maintain the organic properties of the bacteria, while mutating it to secrete an enzyme that would decay environmental toxins, not flesh. In theory, this would have given the new species of bacteria the ability to decompose toxic substances at a tremendously accelerated rate without harming more complex life forms, such as human beings.

While seemingly successful scientists could not find a way to contain this new bacteria (which they now dubbed The Mandate) outside of the lab. Thus they synthesized an organic orb-like containment unit in which to store and transport it

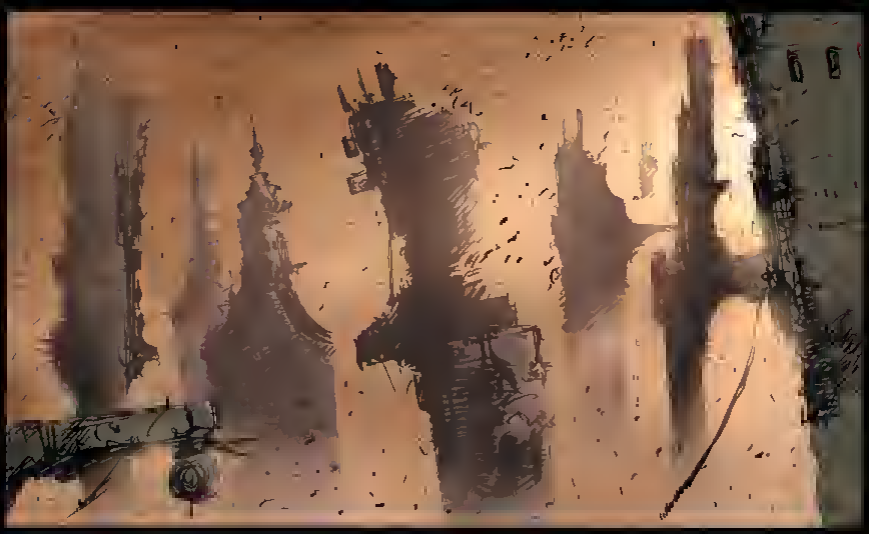
"And that's when things took a turn for the worse. Seems their genetic mutations actually gave The Mandate sentience. Now that they had a brain..."


"They also wanted bodies!"



These bacterial entities quickly spread. Their flesh-eating properties, clearly still intact, now combined with their new toxic decomposition abilities, and enabled The Mandate to destroy everything in its path.

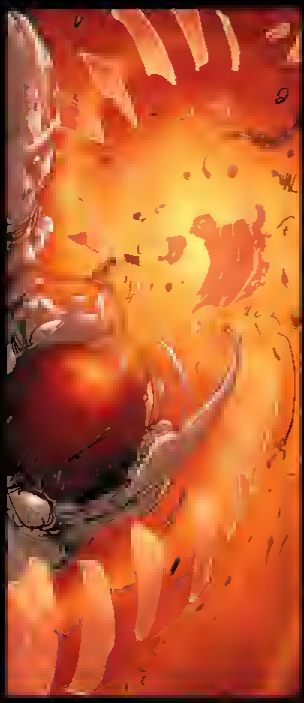
"It was only a matter of days before it had completely wiped out the city where it was created."

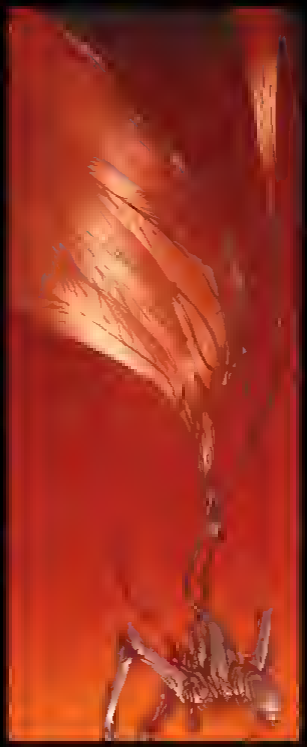


It seemed as though there were more Mandates every day, and they spread across the country at an alarming rate.
So, they're self-replicating?
No. That first Mandate, the one originally generated in the lab, has the ability to conceive and deliver an orb-core to each new Mandate. She has come to be known as the Primogenitor.
But her offspring do not inherit the ability to procreate. In other words, any Mandate that comes to exist is born of the Primogenitor.

But we humans had no way of knowing this at first. The Mandate continued to spread unchecked before we had any inkling of what was going on. By the time we realized what was happening and were able to form any sort of defense strategy, The Mandate had already taken over a large part of the world

The orb-core of each individual Mandate uses an enzyme soluble synthetic process to create and maintain its body. As long as its orb-core continues to function each individual Mandate can regenerate itself and any of its appendages. So, while its orb-core is intact a Mandate is essentially unstoppable





And what's more, a Mandate can adapt its form to anything it wants, depending on the situation it finds itself in. Some of them can develop wings, enabling them to fly while others can arm themselves with any type of weapon imaginable

Ultimately, even the Anti-Mandate Armored Corps, developed specifically to combat The Mandate stood no chance against these ever-evolving warriors

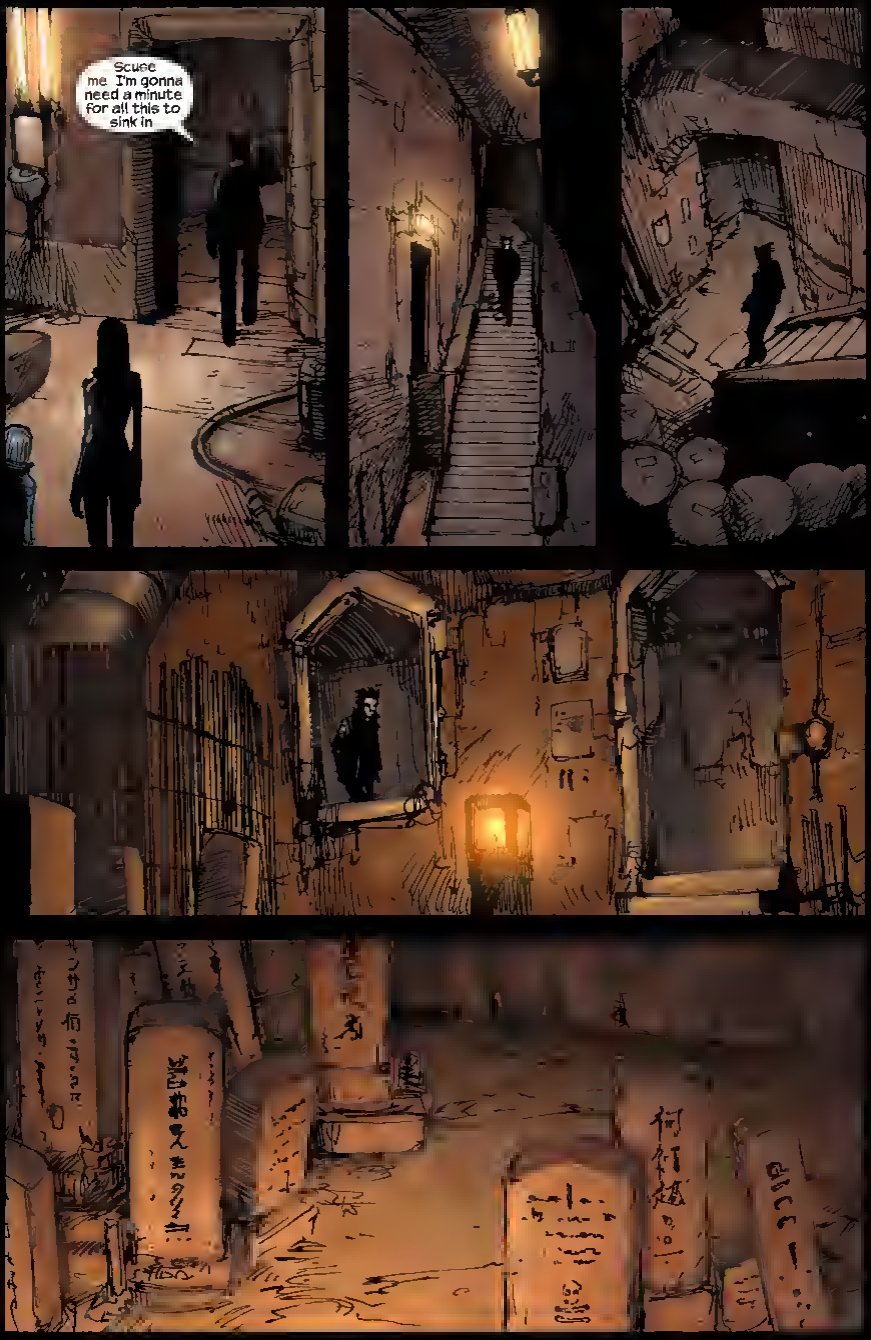
Our small band of human survivors has been able to survive here, in the underground compound only because it was constructed out of the one substance The Mandate cannot penetrate

The Colonel's armor weapons and bullets are made of this same metal which is why only he has the ability to destroy Mandate orb-cores

While the Primogenitor continues to produce orb-cores and build massive colonies of Mandate warriors, we are unable to produce the weapons and ammunition that we need to combat them.

That metal, the one thing that The Mandate is vulnerable to, is *adamantium!* The same metal that your bones and claws are made of, Logan.

"So they traveled back in time and kidnapped me because they think that me and my claws can defeat an army of indestructible bacterial monsters?! Just my luck!"


Scuse me I'm gonna need a minute for all this to sink in

A graveyard?
We still honor our dead. We have to burn the bodies but still mark their passing. These markers also serve to remind us why we must destroy this horrible enemy at any cost.
I'm sorry I followed you Logan, but there is still more to discuss...
What's up?

One day I had a vision. I woke from a sound sleep and did not know where I was.
I thought I was dreaming. But it all seemed so very real.
And there, in this vision... there *you* were. I did not know you, but in an instant, everything you were flooded in to me.
I came to understand everything about you. And it was at that moment I knew. I knew you were the only person who could save us and our world.
How did you do it?
Do what?
Transport me through time to this world. Where did you get the power to do that?

I don't know exactly how I do it. I just concentrate and get this feeling and end up where I want to be. I found you, touched your hand and transported you here.
You get a feeling? What kind of feeling? Are you a mutant?
And wait a sec... are you sure you can get me back?
Yeah... I think I can. I mean... Of course, I can do it.
....

Are there more survivors in other places?
I don't know. There used to be another group in an underground area like this one, but we lost contact with them a long time ago.
Alright then. Let's get this show on the road. Where do we start?
Start what?
You want me to kill these bacterial bad-asses, right?

So you'll do it?! Thank you, Logan.
Thank you!
Not so fast there, honey. Last time you touched me, you teleported me into this horror show. So let's lay off any more hand holding.

ZZZZZT
How's that? Can you see the orange display screen okay? Getting the readings? Able to make out the rest of the group's positions?
Yeah.
CLIP
This will keep you connected with us here as well as the rest of the attack party. Your eyes and ears are now ours as well
You can also now detect any Mandate within a 30 meter radius of your position
But you should still watch your ass

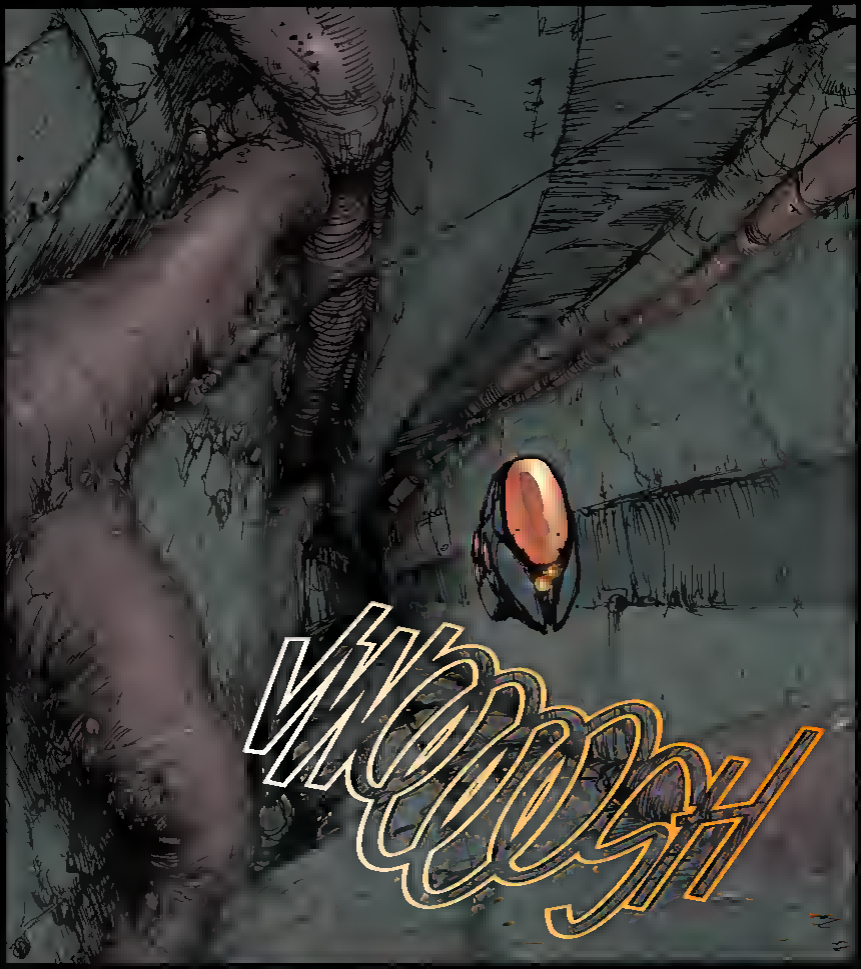
Listen up!
We are about to attempt something no one has ever done before
We are going to try to infiltrate The Mandate colony via an underground passage
Our target is the Primogenitor.
That is our only objective. When we find her, it is up to Logan to destroy her core.
Logan, Yaa will be able to tell you the difference between the Primogenitor and the other Mandate. So stick with her.
The success of this mission takes precedence over our individual lives ...

No! Fuse, you stay here. You are too important to the future.
But I'm the one who brought Logan here in the first place. I can't just sit in the compound and *do nothing!*
You're staying right here.
Besides, kid, if you die, who's gonna take me back to my time?

KLAK
Move out!
VWOOOOSSH!
KLANG

To Be Continued...

MARVEL
PSR 4
WOLVERINE:
SNIKT!
TSUTOMU NIHEI

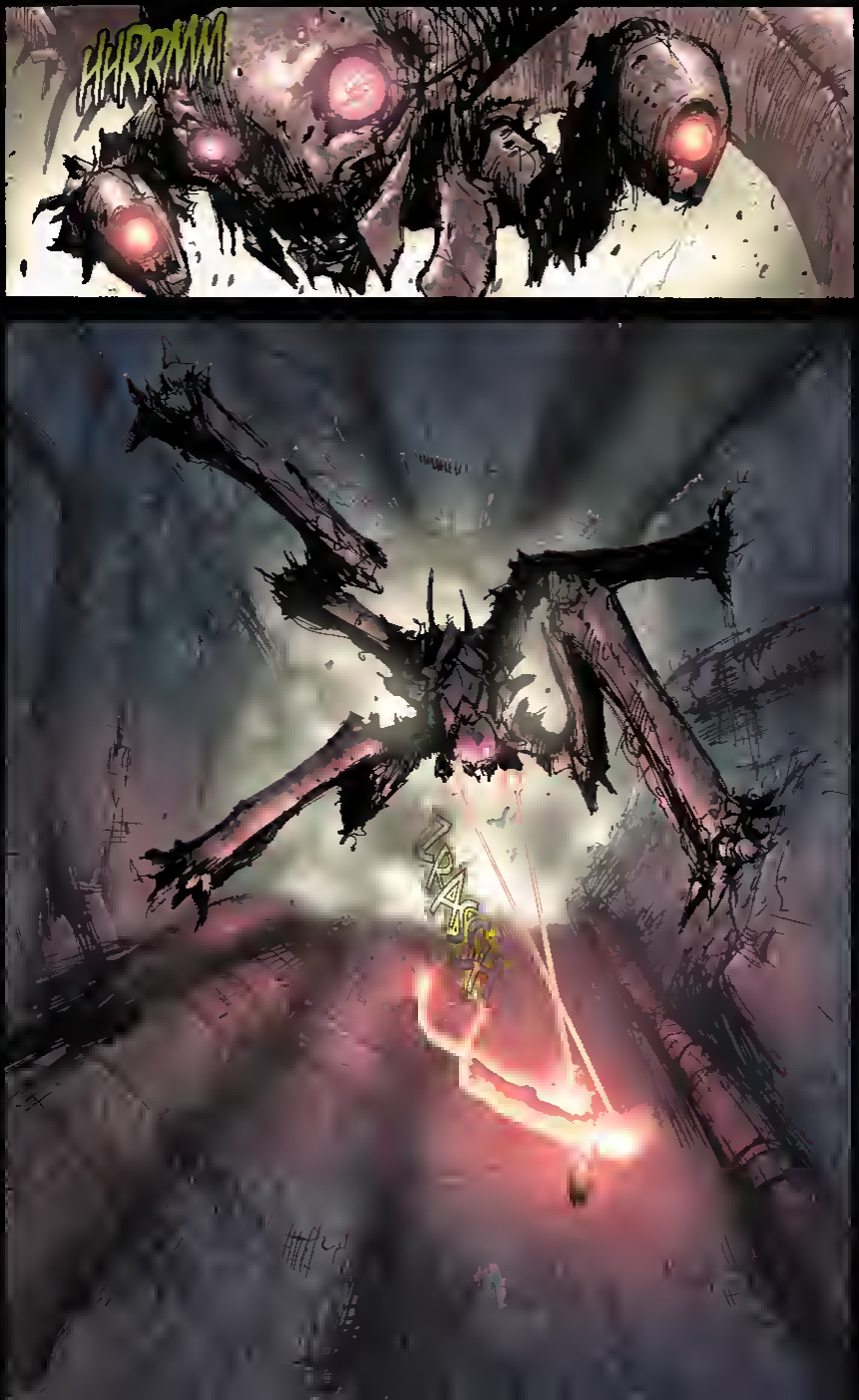

WOOOSH

We're approaching the heart of the Mandate colony

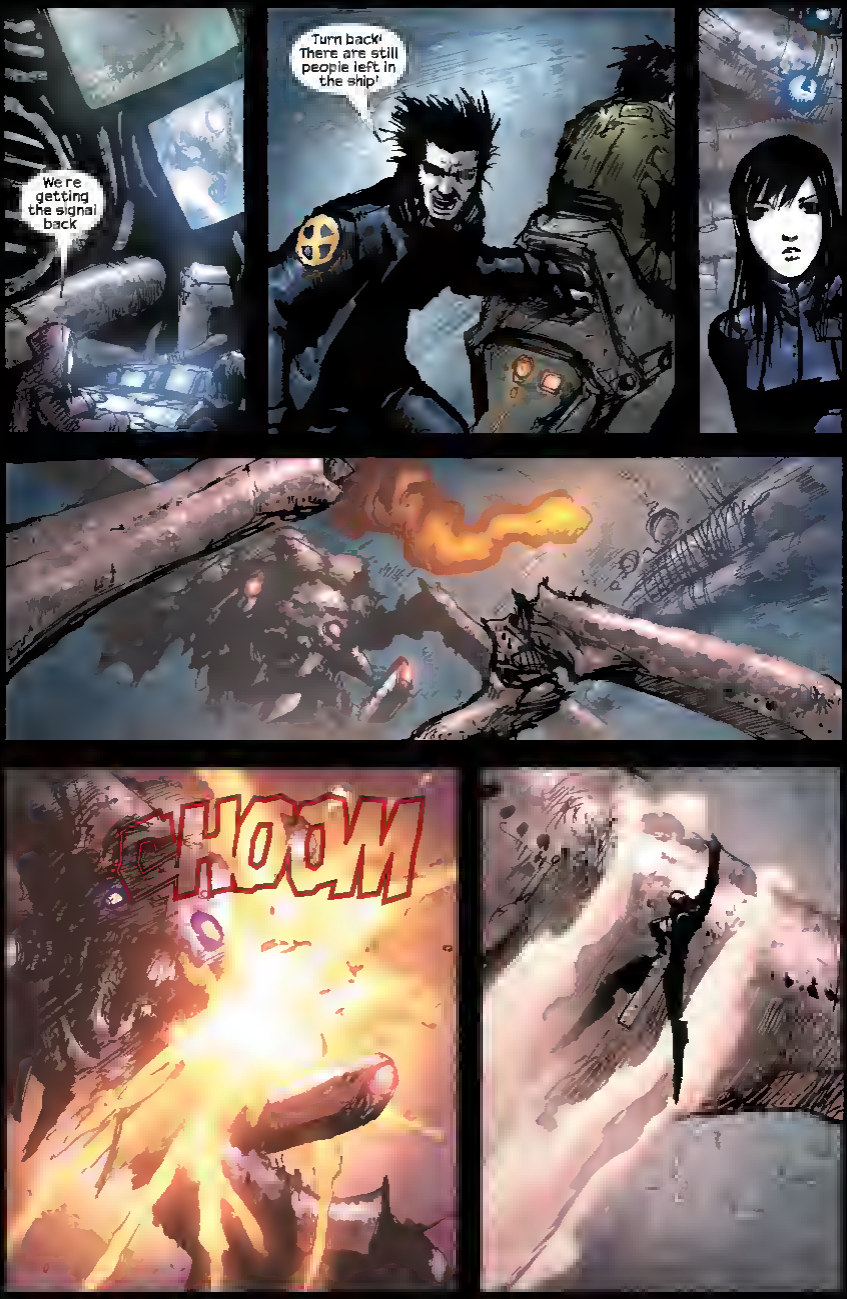
We do not want to engage the enemy until it is absolutely neceeeeary. Let's save as much energy and ammunition as possible until we've located the Primogenitor.
As you are the key, Logan, just keep your head down for now.
Where's the fun in that?
We have to assume that there are thousands of Mandatea in the colony. Don't even think about going head-to-head with any just yet.

We're picking up an incoming heat source. It's headed right for us.
It's a Mandate!
BLIP BLIP BLIP
I've never seen one move this fast!
PING PING PING PING
BOOM

VWISH
FWIP
KACHANG


HHRRMM
ZPAS

VRREEN
VRAASH
SSSSSH


We're getting the signal back
Turn back! There are still people left in the ship!
KHOOM

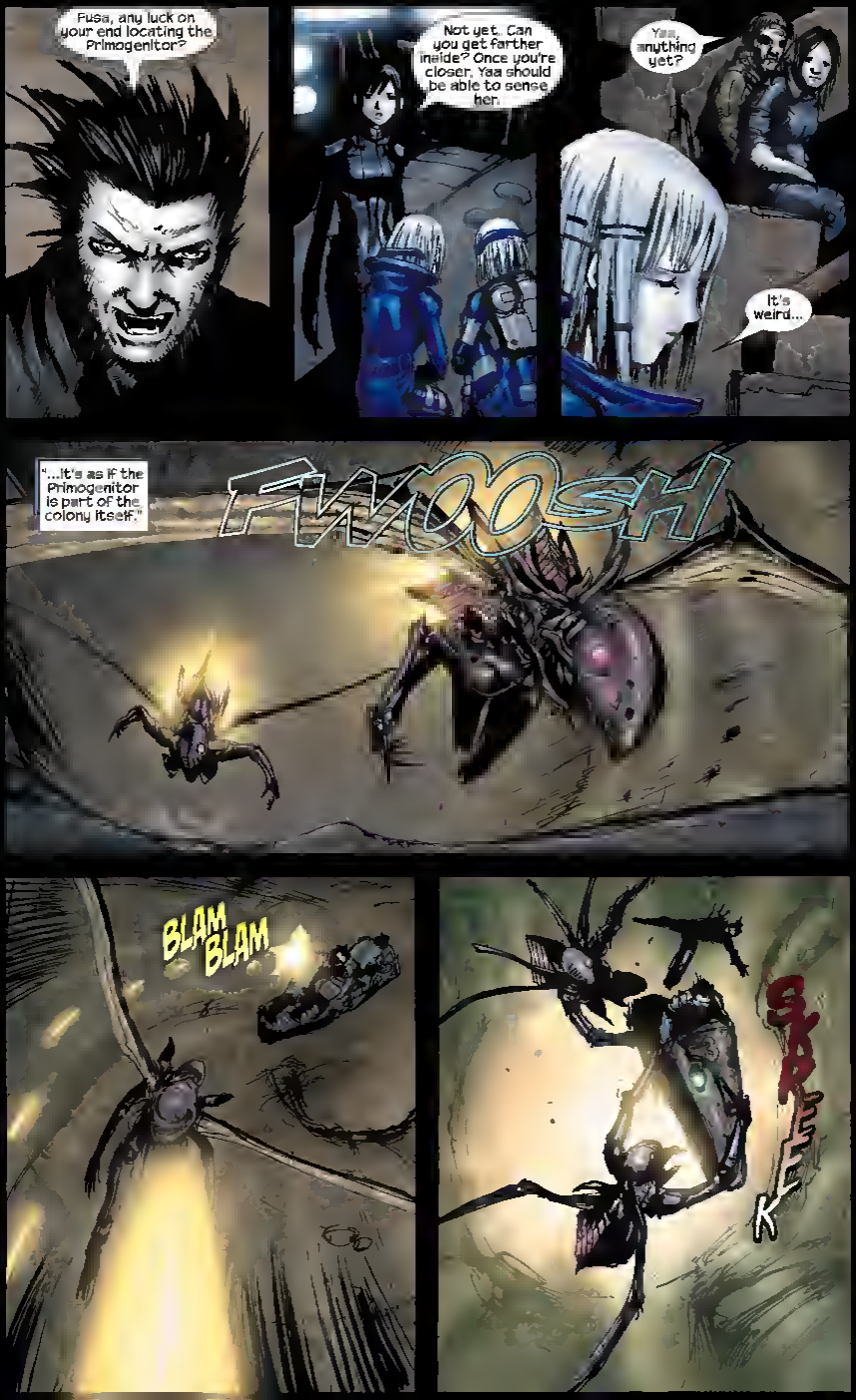
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

KRASH
BWOOM
What about the Colonel?
Damn! His signal is gone.

BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
BLIP
We're about to enter the colony! Here come The Mandate. Hold on tight!

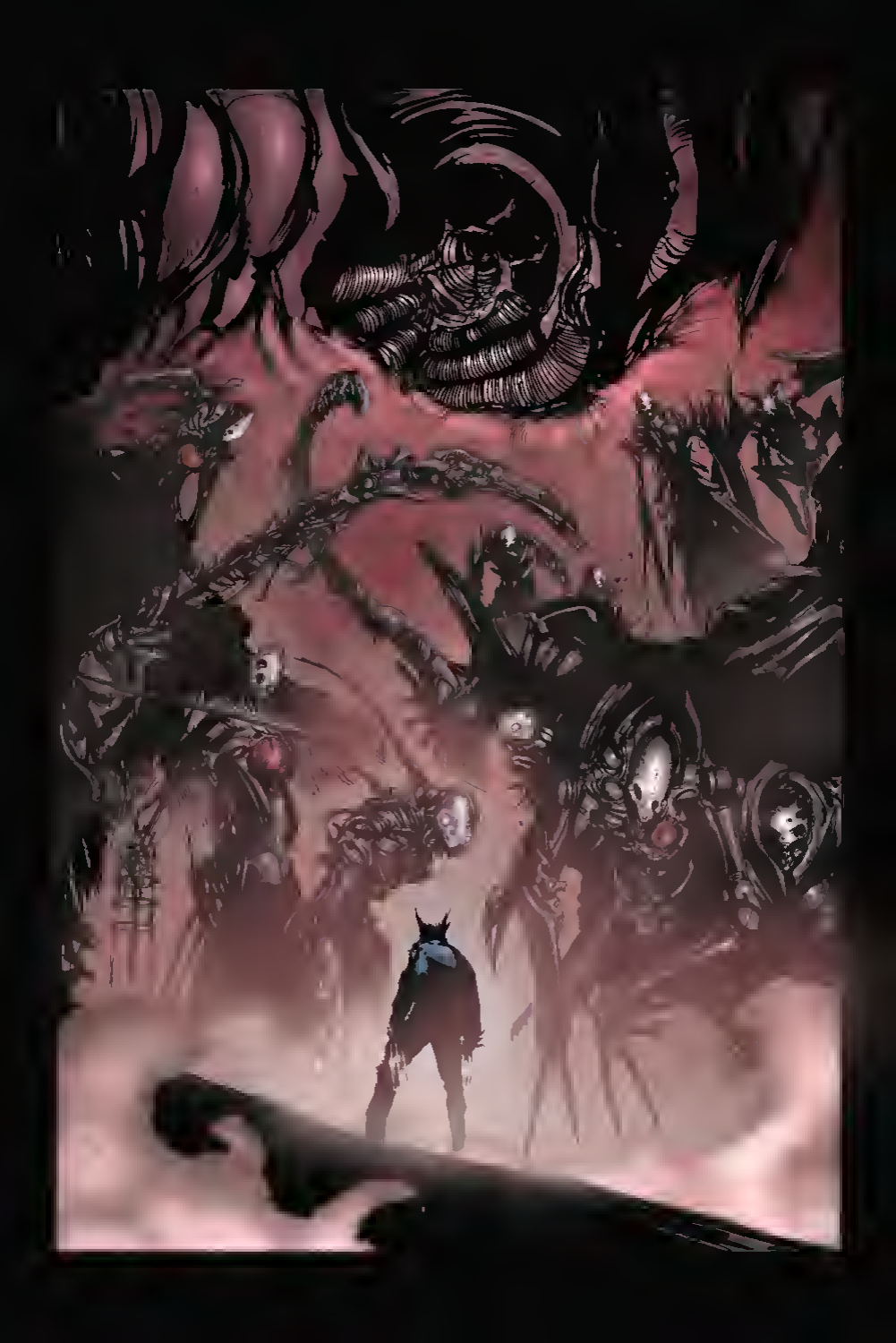
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BWAASH

WHOOOSSH
Flyer Two is down!
BANG!


Fusa, any luck on your end locating the Primogenitor?
Not yet. Can you get farther inside? Once you're closer, Yaa should be able to sense her.
Yaa, anything yet?
It's weird...
"...It's as if the Primogenitor is part of the colony itself."
FWOOSH
BLAM BLAM
SKREEK

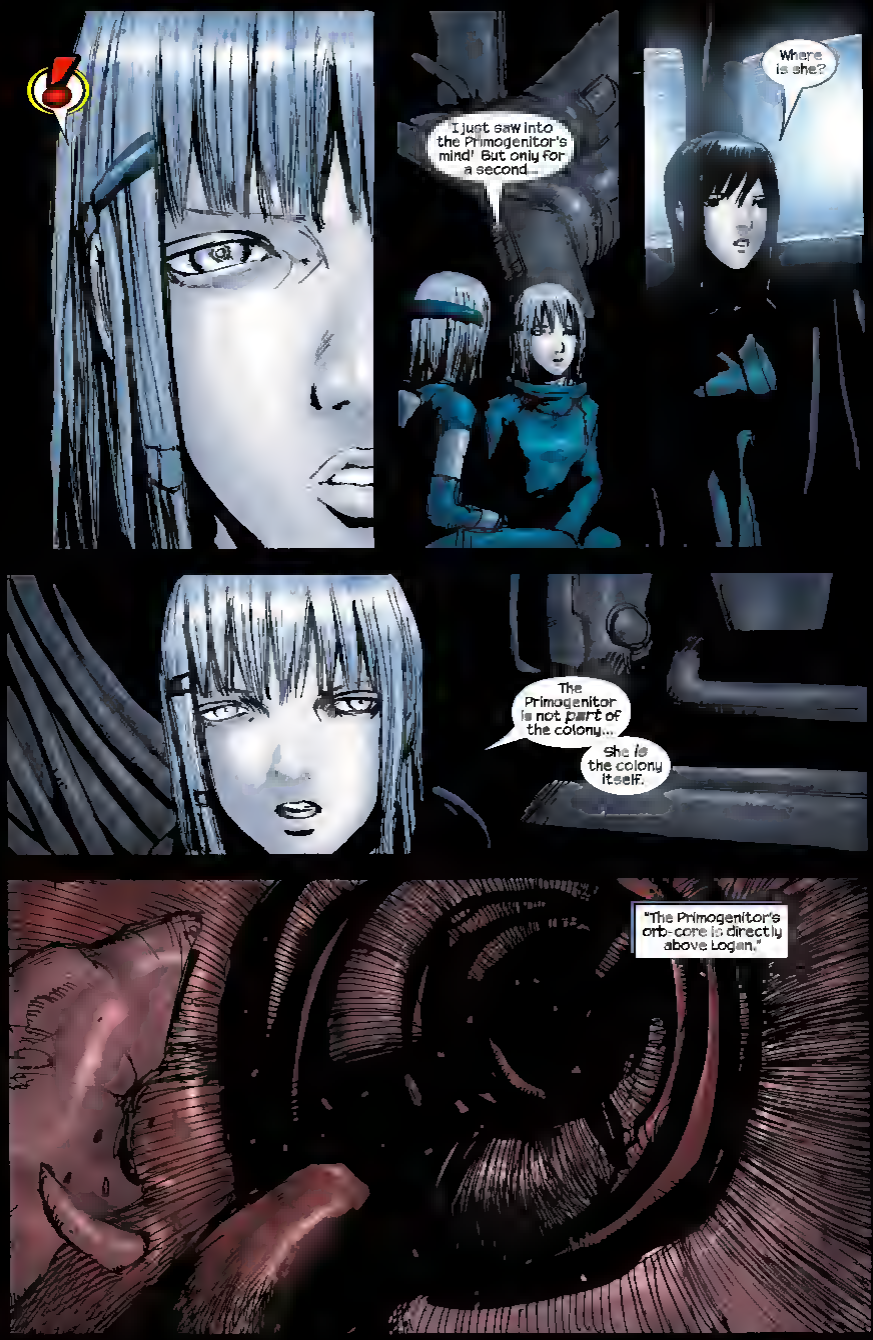
Nooo!! We just lost Flyer Three!
FSSH
KLANG

VWISSHH
SLASH
KSHANG
SPOK
Logan! Can you hear me? Are you alright?
FWSSH
Logan?!
Where are you?



DRIP
DRIP

RRAAARRGGH!


I just saw into the Primogenitor's mind! But only for a second...
Where is she?
The Primogenitor is not *part* of the colony...
She *is* the colony itself.
"The Primogenitor's orb-core is directly above Logan."

RRRUUUMMM
What the hell's going on?
This place is shaking apart.
I've got a bad feeling about this.
TO BE CONCLUDED...

MARVEL
PSR 5
WOLVERINE:
SNIKT!
TSUTOMU NIHEI

RRRRUUUUUU
KRAK
FWOOSH
KRRSSH

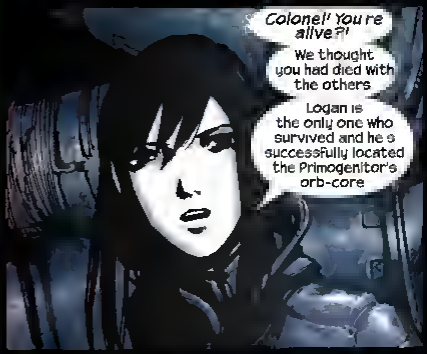
Fuse, what the hell's going on?
Logan, you're *inside* of the Primogenitor. The orb core is directly above you.
I'm inside it?!

KLATTER
KLATTER
SLASH

TAK
TAK
TAK
TAK
I see it.
Let's finish this!

KRSSH
KRASH
KRSSH
KRASH
KRSSH
KRSSH
KRASH
Fusa, can you hear me?

What's the situation?
SPOK
SPOK
SPOK


Colonel! You're alive?!
We thought you had died with the others
Logan is the only one who survived and he's successfully located the Primogenitor's orb-core

What?! Everyone else is dead?
I'm sorry.
They're all dead.

?!
What the...?! Is that it?
I'm right below it.
BANG
BANG
SPAK

I'm too far away. I need to get closer.
KLAK
EERRHHMMM
WOOM
SPANG

Consider this payback for all you've taken from me
KLAK

BLAM
BLAM
0003
0001
0000
BLAM
BLAM

KRAKOA
KAWM
The orb-core I pierced it, but could not destroy it
Logan I leave it to you. The future now rests solely in your hands.
THUMP

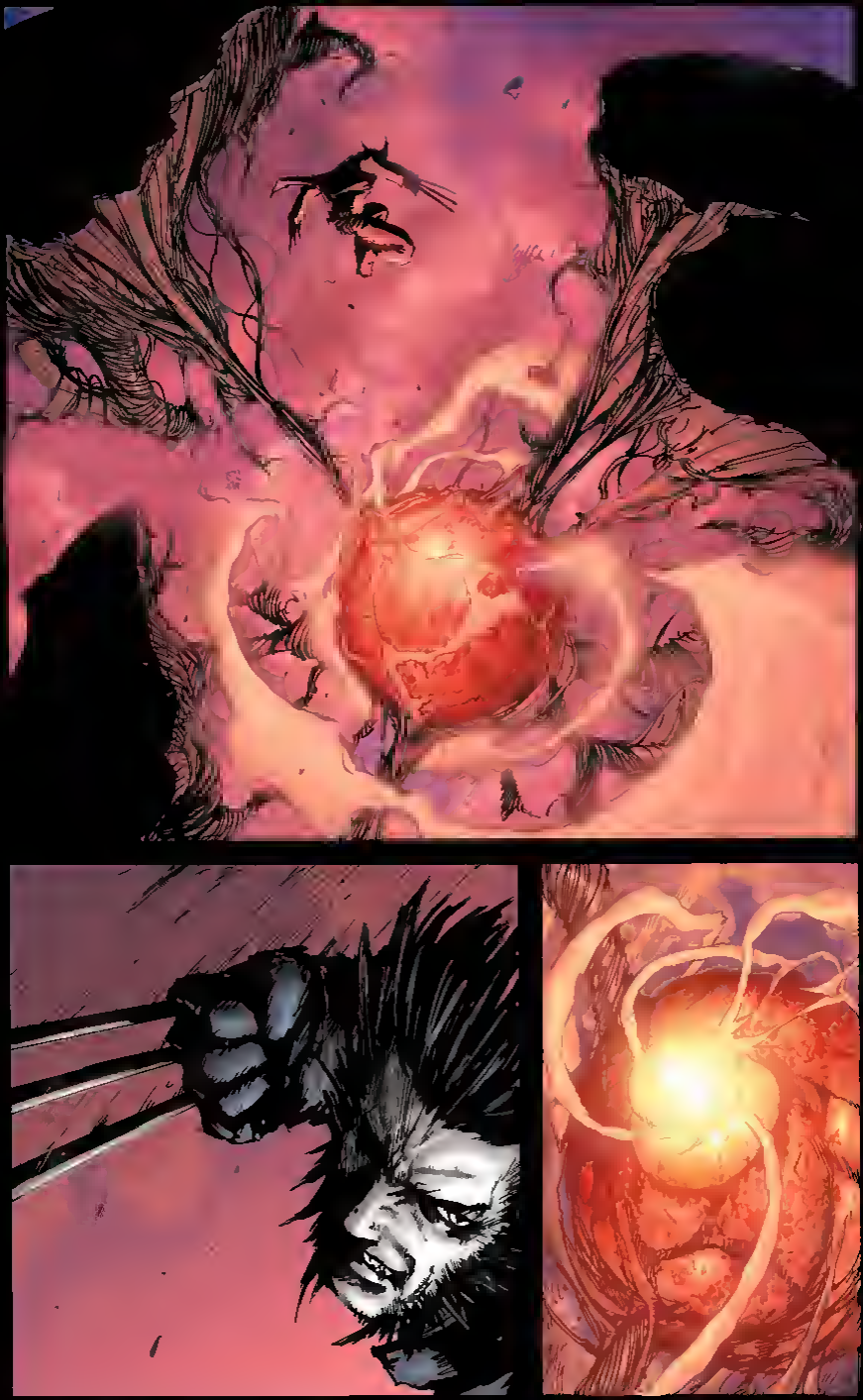
00:00:12:00
BWOOM

Colonel!
He self-destructed!

He cracked the outer core! I'm going in
This ends now!

RUMBLE
BRAAK
BRAAK
BRAAK

WOOSH

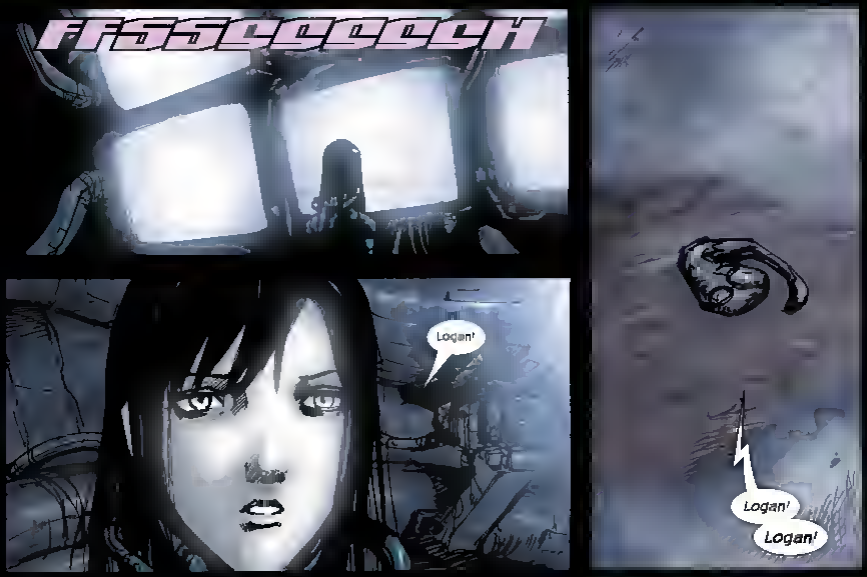


VRAASH

CHOK
KRAAZAAK

BOOM
BOOM

FWASH
KRUNCH


FFSSCCCCCH
Logan!
Logan!
Logan!

THE NEXT MORNING...
VRRRMM
Over there! I see him!

I knew you were the one! I knew you were the savior!
Thank you, Wolverine.
I know it is a lot to ask .
Thanks for the invite, but I belong somewhere else
You could stay here with us
I understand
Know that we will miss you.
Sure thing, kid. I wish I could say it's been fun.
But I hope I never see you again. No offense.
Good luck
Thank you

One Teleport Later...
Home sweet home.
Man, do I need a beer.
What a trip.
I guess that Morrison fella was right.
"The future's uncertain and the end is always near."
End.